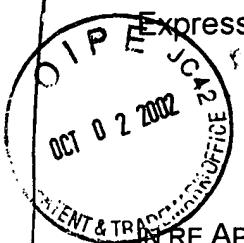


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF: Peterson et al.

APPLICATION No.: 09/420,659

FILED: 19 October 1999

FOR: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
RETAINING A TRAY STACK HAVING A
PLURALITY OF TRAYS FOR CARRYING
MICROELECTRONIC DEVICES

EXAMINER: Janice L. Krizek

ART UNIT: 3652

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Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The present communication responds to the Office action dated 2 April 2002 in the above-identified application. Please amend the application as follows. The attached Appendix presents a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment.

In the Specification:

Please amend the two paragraphs extending from page 8, line 24 – page 9, line 27 to read as follows:

The guide structure 50 can be covered by a plurality of panels 62 (identified by reference numbers 62a-62d). In this particular embodiment, first and second side panels 62a and 62b are attached to sides of the retaining assembly 52, and first and second end panels 62c and 62d are attached to opposing ends of the retaining assembly 52. The panels 62 can be attached to the retaining assembly 52 and to each other by a plurality of bolts 69 or other suitable fasteners. The retaining assembly 52 and the panels 62 define a housing for containing the tray stack. The panels 62 can be